

Glossary

A

Apportionable Fee—any periodic recurring fee required for licensing or registering vehicles, such as, but not limited to, registration fees, license and weight fees.

Apportionable vehicle—any vehicle used or intended for use in two or more member jurisdictions that allocate or proportionally register a vehicle for hire or a vehicle designed, used, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property and to which one of the following classifications apply:

- a power unit having a gross vehicle weight in excess of 26,000 pounds
- a power unit having three or more axles, regardless of weight
- a unit used in combination, when the weight of such combination exceeds 26,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.

Exceptions to the apportionable definition include: recreational vehicles, vehicles displaying restricted plates, city pickup and delivery vehicles, buses/livery vehicles used in the transportation of chartered parties, and government-owned vehicles. Vehicles, or combinations thereof, having a gross weight of 26,000 pounds or less and two axle vehicles may be proportionally registered at the option of the registrant.

Axle—assembly of a vehicle consisting of two or more wheels connected by a supporting shaft which transmits a portion of the weight of a vehicle and its load, if any, is continually transmitted to the roadway. For purposes of registration, an axle is any such assembly even if it is load bearing only part of the time. For example, a single unit truck, with a steering axle and two axles in the rear-axle assembly is an apportionable vehicle, even though one of the rear axles is a so-called “dummy”, “drag”, “tag”, or “pusher” axle.

Axle weight—weight transmitted to the surface by one axle or a combination of axles in a tandem assembly.

B

Base jurisdiction—state where the registrant has an established place of business, where mileage is accrued by the fleet, and where the operational records of the fleet are maintained or can be made available.

Base plate—plate issued by the base jurisdiction and is the only registration identification plate issued for the vehicle by any member jurisdiction. Base plates shall be identified by having the word “APPORTIONED” and the jurisdiction’s name on the plate.

Bus—motor vehicle designed for carrying more than 9 passengers and used for the transportation of persons for compensation.

C

Cab Card—registration card issued only by the base jurisdiction for a vehicle of an apportioned fleet. The card identifies the specific vehicle for which it was issued, the base jurisdiction of the fleet, the registered weight of the vehicle in each apportioned jurisdiction, and the jurisdictions where the vehicle is properly registered.

Carrier—individual, partnership, or corporation engaged in the business of transporting persons or goods.

Chartered Party—group of persons who, pursuant to a common purpose and under a single contract, and at a fixed charge for the vehicle in accordance with the carrier’s tariff, lawfully with the Interstate Commerce Commission, have acquired the exclusive use of a passenger-carrying motor vehicle to travel together as a group to a specified destination or for a particular itinerary, either agreed upon in advance, or modified by the chartered party after having left the place of origin.

Combination—power unit used together with trailers and/or semi-trailers.

Combined Gross Weight—weight of the power unit, the trailer(s), and the maximum load that can potentially be transported.

Commercial Vehicle—vehicle operated for the transportation of persons or property to promote a commercial or industrial enterprise, for hire or not for hire.

Commissioner—jurisdiction official in charge of vehicle registration.

Common Carrier—motor carrier that advertises to the general public to engage in the transportation by motor vehicle of goods or persons. *See also Contract Carrier, Exempt Carrier, Motor Carrier and Private Carrier.*

Contract Carrier—any motor carrier transporting persons or property for compensation or hire under contract to a particular person, firm, or corporation. *See also Common Carrier, Exempt Carrier, Motor Carrier and Private Carrier.*

Converter Gear—auxiliary under-carriage assembly with a fifth wheel and tow bar used to convert a semi-trailer into a full trailer (sometimes called a “converter dolly”).

Credentials—cab card and apportioned license plate issued to vehicles licensed under the International Registration Plan.

D

Double-Bottom Combination—combination of a power unit pulling two (2) semi-trailers or a semi-trailer and a full trailer.

E

Established place of business—physical structure owned, leased, or rented by a fleet registrant and designated by street number or road location, and which is open during normal business hours and in which are located:

- a telephone or telephones publicly listed in the name of the fleet registrant; and
- a person or persons conducting the fleet registrants business; and

- the operational records of the fleet or where the records can be made available.

Exempt Carrier—individual, partnership, or corporation engaged in the business of transporting exempt goods or persons for compensation.

F

Fifth Wheel—device used to connect a truck tractor or converter gear to a semi-trailer.

Fleet—one or more apportionable vehicles which travel in the same states.

Full Trailer—vehicle without motive power, designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and so constructed that it has a permanently mounted front axle and rear axle (example: a circus or hay wagon).

G

Gross Vehicle Weight—weight of the vehicle without load plus the weight of any load thereon.

I

I. C. C.—abbreviation for the United States Interstate Commerce Commission.

International Registration Plan—an agreement between jurisdictions for prorating or apportioning registration fees based on fleet mileage traveled in each jurisdiction.

Interstate Operations—vehicle movement between or through two or more jurisdictions.

Intrastate Operations—vehicle movement from one point within a jurisdiction to another point within the same jurisdiction.

I. V. M. R.—abbreviation for an Individual Vehicle Mileage Record.

J

Jurisdiction—state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, or a province of Canada.

L

Lease—written document vesting exclusive possession, control of, and responsibility for the operation of the vehicle to a lessee for a specific period of time.

Lessee—person, firm, or corporation having the legal possession and control of a vehicle owned by another under the terms of a lease agreement.

Lessor—person, firm, or corporation which under the terms of a lease, grants the legal right of possession, control of, and responsibility for the operation of the vehicle to another person, firm, or corporation.

Long-term lease—a lease of 30 days or more.

M

Member Jurisdiction—a state, territory, or possession of the United States, District of Columbia, and provinces of Canada that are signatory members of the IRP.

Mileage In-Jurisdiction Miles—total number of miles operated by a fleet of proportionally registered vehicles in a jurisdiction during the preceding year.

Motor Carrier—an individual, partnership, or corporation engaged in the transportation of goods or persons. *See also Common Carrier, Contract Carrier, Exempt Carrier, and Private Carrier.*

O

Operational Records—documents supporting miles traveled in each jurisdiction and total miles traveled, such as IVMR's, fuel reports, trip sheets, and logs.

Owner-Operator—a lessor who leases vehicular equipment with driver to a carrier.

P

Preceding Reporting Year—period of July 1 through June 30 which immediately precedes the registration or license year for which proportional registration is sought.

Private Carrier—a person, firm, or corporation that uses its own trucks to transport the private carriers' own freight.

Proportion—a part or a share in its relation to the whole.

R

Reciprocity Agreement—an agreement, arrangement, or understanding governing the reciprocal grant of rights and/or privileges to vehicles which are parties to such an agreement, arrangement, or understanding.

Reciprocity Miles—miles generated by a carrier in non-member jurisdictions that grant reciprocity and require no payment of registration fees.

Recreational Vehicle—vehicle designed or converted and used for personal pleasure or travel by an individual or family.

Registered Weight—weight for which a vehicle or combination of vehicles have been licensed or registered within a particular jurisdiction.

Registrant—person, firm, or corporation in whose name or names a vehicle is properly registered.

Registrar of Motor Vehicles—jurisdiction official in charge of vehicle registrations.

Registration Year—twelve month period during which the registration plates issued by the base jurisdiction are valid according to the laws of the base jurisdiction. Massachusetts's registration year is July 1 through June 30.

Rental Fleet—five or more vehicles that are leased or offered for lease without drivers, and which are designated by the lessor as a rental fleet.

Restricted Plate—a registration that has time (less than a full year), geographic area, mileage, or commodity restrictions (farm, log, or dealer plate).

Road Tractor (Mobile Home Toter, Wrecker)—motor vehicle designed and used for drawing other vehicles and not constructed to carry any load either independently or any part of the weight of a vehicle or load so drawn.

S

Semi-Trailer—vehicle without motive power, designed for carrying persons or property, and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and so constructed so that some part of its weight and that of its load rests upon or is carried by the towing vehicle (permanently mounted rear axle only).

Service Representative—someone who furnishes facilities and services including sales, warehousing, motorized equipment and drivers under contract or other arrangements to a carrier for transportation of property by a household goods carrier.

Short Term Lease—lease of 30 days or less.

T

Temporary Authority—a permit issued to current IRP accounts for 45 days.

Total Miles—total number of miles operated by a fleet of proportionally registered vehicles in all jurisdictions during the preceding year.

Trip Lease—lease of a vehicle to a lessee for a one-trip operation only.

Trip Permit—temporary permit issued by a jurisdiction in lieu of regular apportioned license plates and cab card.

Tractor—motor vehicle designed and used primarily for drawing other vehicles, but not constructed to carry part of the load on the tractor itself (example: car haulers).

Truck—vehicle designed, used, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property.

Truck Tractor—motor vehicle designed and used primarily for drawing other vehicles, but constructed to carry a load other than a part of the weight of the vehicle and weight so drawn.

U

Unladen Weight—actual weight of a vehicle including the cab, body, and all accessories with which the vehicle is equipped for normal use on the highway, excluding the weight of any load.